

MONTHLY



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TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT

AQUARIST SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

Contributions to --- The Editor : P.Blomfield, 90 Beach Avenue, Leigh, Essex
Hon Secretary: H.A.Giles, 72, Sandingham Road, Southend-On-Sea, Essex

Metropole ***Aquatics***

C.J.Saunders C.G. Brooks

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This is the only copy we have been able to find of issues in Volume Four . For some reason the bundle of Journals that found their way to the late Dave Cheswright from Mr H.A. Giles collection and thence to Dave`s loft to be rescued by our current Treasurer Chris Cheswright and presented to Peter Capon who foolishly agreed to copy all the Journals he could find via OCR to a PDF format.

Anyone with any copies of other issues of Volume Four we would be grateful to receive loan or copies to complete the Society`s collection.

**[mailto:peter.capon@yahoo.co.uk?](mailto:peter.capon@yahoo.co.uk?subject=SLADAS%20JOURNALS)
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Not only is this project interesting from the Society`s point of view but also as an historical record pertinent to Southend and the surrounding district

The main web address of our Society is
<http://www.southendaquarist.co.uk/>

SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY
MONTHLY JOURNAL

Vol. .4, . No 5

December, 1951.

The Society meets at 7.45 p.m. on the First and Third. WEDNESDAY in each month, at:~

The Liberal Hall,
Clarence Road,
Southend~on-Sea.

EDITORIAL

Dear fellow members,

As an active member of the Algae Grower's Guild, The Mulm Accumulators Association, The Planarian Breeder's Society, and The White Spot Club, I can probably talk with no little, or should I say little or no, authority on the subject of Club Membership; and it grieves me to hear this sort of remark from a former member, "I've 'ad Clubs! Clicky, that's what they are, 'Orrible stuck up lot]; nobody don't never come and tork to yer!" Perhaps he may have been offended, because, without knowing that he had a family of eleven, I had said just previously, "Why don't you go in for breeding old chap?"

This type had only himself to blame, of course.. One can only get out of a Club what one puts into it, and our English temperament does not encourage ice breaking with someone who sits and says nothing all the time, So please do introduce yourselves and get nattering to one another, A word or two of advice, if I may; ask questions, - everyone loves, to expound their own ideas on a subject; and get to know other people's names and use them, there is nothing sweeter in the world to anyone than the sound of his own name. Go on, get amongst one another, you lovely aquarists you !

Here's wishing you all a very Happy Christmas, and in the New Year bigger and better spawnings, bags of goodwill, and an increase in general friendliness and tolerance all round,

Yours most sincerely,

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CLUB NEWS

A rather smaller gathering than usual assembled at the Liberal Hall on Wednesday the 21st November for the last Table Show of the year, a general show of single fish in two classes, Livebearers and Egglayers, and while Mr, Barnes-Oake judged the entries, Mr. Willis gave a short but, most instructive talk on Hydra.

Hydra, Mr. Willis told us, was a member of the the largest family of invertebrates known and existed in two forms, the Green and the brown, While a jar containing some fine specimens of the brown variety was passed. Round he went on to explain the primitive nervous system, which resulted in sensitivity to shock and which enabled the Hydra to contract into a blob no larger than a pin's head. The means of locomotion consisted either of a ponderous "head-over heels" motion, each end in turn letting go and then gaining a fresh hold, or by the creature just letting go altogether and either falling or drifting to a new resting place. Food was obtained by small living things e.g. Daphnia, Cyclops etc. coming into contact with the tentacles, being stung, enveloped, and then consumed. Finally, Mr. Willis touched on reproduction which, he said, was either Sexual or Asexual; in the former case a small nodule forms on one side of the body and the cells break down to form spermatazoa; while on the other side another nodule forms into an ovary, which, receiving sperms from the water, forms into a cyst which breaks off and grows into another Hydra; in the latter case a small protrusion grows from the body and becomes in fact a- "siamese twin".

The results of the Table Show were as follows:-

Livebearers.

1. Mr.Donges Golden Wagtail Platy.
2. Mr.G. Pryor - Red Wagtail Platy.
3. Mr. J. Parry - Red Swordtail.
4. Mr.Halfhead- Tuxedo Swrdtail.

Egglayerj.

1. Mrs Siopp - Red Fiamase fighter.
2. Mr , Carter - Nigger Barb .
3. Mrs. Gibbs - Blue Gourami
4. Mr B.Sweetenham- *Hemigrammus caudovittatus*.
- 5.

Our congratulations to the winners, and thanks to the good ladies who "did" for us in the tea break, and to Mr.Halfhead who organised the staging, tanks etc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fifty three members gathered at the Liberal Hall on Wednesday the 5th December for the Annual General Meeting. The meeting opened at 8.10 p.m. With the reading of the Minutes of the last A. G.M. which were accepted unanimously. Mr.K.Escott then presented his report as Treasurer, each member having been given a copy of the Balance Sheet; the Club was shown to be in a sound financial position, as the profits from the Annual Show had far outweighed the loss made from general Club working for the year, and, after a detailed discussion on the various points in the Balance, it was proposed by Mr.C. G. Brooks, seconded by Mr, G. Willis and carried that the Accounts be passed.

Two amendments to Rules were then put forward; the first was that the yearly subscription should be raised from 7/6 and 10/6 to 10/6 and 13/6 for individual members and husband and wife respectively, and, after much lively discussion for and against, the motion was defeated by 28 votes to 21; Secondly, the motion for the reconstitution of the Committee, as shown below, was passed unanimously, and this was immediately followed by the retirement of the old Committae.

Mr,C. J. Saunders was returned unopposed as President for 1952, and subsequent nomination and election resulted in the formation of the following Committee :-

President	Mr C.J.Saunders
Vice-President	Mr E. Day
Honn. Secretary	Mr H. Giles
Hon. Treasurer	Mr C.G. Brooks
Hon. Show Sec.	Mr W. Carter
Hon, Social Sec,	Mr G. Cooke
Hon.Librarian	Mr M. Mash
Committee Member	Mr R. DuBoisson
Hon. Editor.	Mr P. Blomfield

Hearty votes of thanks were proposed by our retiring President Mr.M. Barnes-Oake to Mr Escott, our ex-Treasurer, Mr. Giles, Mr, Hoare, Mr.DuBoisson, and the other members of the Show Committee, Messrs. Carter, Baker, Brooke and Cooke, for their unstinted and invaluable work during the year: he also thanked all those members whose enthusiasm and help had also gone towards making this both a happy successful year; and he had a special word of praise for our bevy of ladies, so ably led by Mrs.Gibbs, for their grand efforts in providing the excellent refreshment which we all enjoy and appreciate so much.

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It was announced that the prize for the most Table show points had been won by Mrs. Gibbs with Mr. Willis a close second, and that the award for the best Journal article, judged by Mr. Page the Editor of "Water Life", had gone to Mrs. Sullivan; -our congratulations to them both, and let us resolve to "get after" them next year..

Finally our "new" President, Mr. Saunders, (in view of Jack's lengthy and greatly esteemed service with the Club, this word "new" couldn't be more of a misnomer) said that he thought it was more essential that this should be a happy Club than necessarily a successful one, and that it was his hope that the Club would ultimately be comprised of some hundred members, who were all keen aquarists and who would be permanent in their support and enthusiasm. Your Editor, incidentally, would also like to associate himself strongly with this sentiment.

The meeting closed at 10,15 on the threshold of a New Year: of Club activity, a year at whose end it is to be hoped we shall all be better aquarists and still better friends.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1952 are now due, and members are reminded firstly that the rates are 7/6 for individual members and 10/6 for husband and wife together, and secondly of Rule 8 of the Society rules which states that subscriptions are due within the first four weeks following the Annual General Meeting, and that the membership of those who have not paid within that time shall be deemed to have lapsed.

So please do pay-up promptly, it does help our Hon. Sec, and Hon. Treas. so much if they know in the first few weeks who are going to be "with us" next year. Subscriptions should be either given or sent to the Hon. Treasurer:~

Mr, C. G. Brooks,
1, Southchurch Boulevard,
Southchurch,

WITH APOLOGIES.....

A vote for or against singleton guppies was put to the Meeting, and the "fors" won by a "half-head",

M.C.M,

FISH ANATOMY by: Roy V. Edwards.
Tail and Fins.

I have left the tail and fins until last in talking about the skeleton, as they bear special features..

At the tail of the fish the vertebrae slope upwards so that the Haemal arches and spines point directly backwards. These bones become modified to form the HYPURAL bones, which are the supports for the fin rays, and they emanate from two vertebrae, one forming an upper Hypural bone supporting the upper rays of the top lobe of the caudal fin, and the other forming a lower Hypural bone supporting the lower lobe rays. In the case of the Twin-tails (Veils., Fans, Moors etc.), with the shortened length of the entire tail of the fish (NOT JUST THE CAUDAL FIN, THE WHOLE TAIL !), a number of vertebrae in the Caudal Peduncle fuse together thus strengthening the Haemal -arches to form the Hypural bones. The actual Haemal arches remain unjoined and give rise to four Hypural bones- two side by side at the top and two side by side at the bottom - on which the fin rays are attached. However, if only the foremost of the Hypural bones are affected in this way then the top lobe is normal and the lower lobe divided., thus presenting what is known as a Tri-tail.

Although I have been referring to each individual Vertebra as two bones, it would perhaps have been better to refer- to them as groups of bones fused together, which is what they really are, but it is easier to grasp the idea if they are thought of as single bones.

The muscles are laid down on the skeletal framework the fins extended and firm, - unless of course there is some organic reason for the fins to be limp ..and drooping such as weak bone structure through poor feeding etc. The same applies in the case of the other fins, they are attached to plates of bone fitting over the NEURAL spines above and the HAEMAL spines below. The Anal fin articulates with a number of short bones known as Interhaemal bones, interlocking with the Haemal spines in rather the same way as the teeth of a gear wheel interlock, and these may at times be divided in much the same way as the Hypural bones to form two separate sets, thus giving rise to a double Anal fin. The Dorsal fin is attached to the Vertebrae in a similar way to the Anal fin, in this case it articulates with a row of bony plates formed by the Interneural bones, and these interlock with the neural spines of the vertebrae.

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Differences in fin shape and tail shape are found between sexes in tropical fishes in the shape of elongations of various rays of the fins, - these are secondary sexual characteristics, e.g. the sword in the male Swordtail, and the various extensions in the tail of the types of male guppy.

To be continued.

BY ANY. OTHER NAME..... by the Editor

Aquarists throughout the country are familiar with and readily use the name TETRA with reference to certain Characins - probably the best examples being Neon Tetra, and Black Line Tetra, though we also know Rosy Tetra (*Hyphessobrycon rosaceus*), Lemon Tetra (*Hyphessobrycon pulchripinnis*), and Red-fin Tetra (*Hemigrammus caudovittatus*); and it is, I think interesting to know how this name originated.

At the time when Characins were first becoming popular in this country, many were known by the Generic name TETRAGONOPTERUS - the well known Bloodfin, for instance, was *Tetragonopterus rubropictus* - and this rather trying mouthful was naturally shortened to TETRA.

In the course of time, however, owing to thereclassification of types which is constantly going on in the interests of accuracy, this name was found to be incorrect, and the various genera concerned were given the names by which they are known today, But the old abbreviation TETRA seems to have remained, even though it has no significance whatever and does in fact emanate from a Generic name which has long since been found to have been incorrect.

KRAZY KOMPOSITION.....

M.C.M,

Several noted composers had a very "fishy" outlook-Rossini wrote the "Barbus of Seville", Offenbach "The tails are off, man!" Delibes "Coppeinia", whilst Sullivan excelled with "The Gondoleeries", "Ruddigourami", "The Microkardo", and "Patience".

"CODDLING"

by: M.C.MASH.

"What's your candid opinion about coddling'." I asked an aquarist acquaintance, hoping to gain some valuable and expert information. He gazed at me with a cod-like expression, rolled his brandy-ball eyes and hissed from the corner of his mouth: "I think they're very tasty, especially with 'Mash' potatoes and parsley sauce, and served hot on Good Friday".

I Abruptly turned away feeling somewhat hurt -with a bitterness in my heart against the world in general and that guy in particular - when it suddenly occurred to me that he had been referring to the coddling with a, single "d", and that the seeming hollowness of his nature was more accidental than incidental.

Now, being of a somewhat poetic nature, and rather hard-boiled at that, I did not feel a bit abashed by the failure of my leading question. Instead, I repeated this self-same question to a sweet-natured north country young lady whom I knew was a rabid fish-lover. She looked at me with sorrowful surprise and Answered "Oh Sir, I think it's wonderful, but not in public", Well was my face red?

I then and there decided to keep my ideas on coddling to myself and practice them at length in the confines of my own home. Having been an anticoddler for some time, the interesting talk by Mr. White, President of the G. B. S. (not shades of George Bernard, but the Guppy Breeders' Society) had convinced me that the survival of the fittest in fish-keeping was second only to that of travelling by underground.

I therefore decided to refrain from putting a heater in a tank which contained a goodly collection of Golden Guppies, All went well until, you will recollect, came a sudden drop in the temperature during the week of the General Election. Not only did I lose the minority of a spawning of Moors - to wit, three out of seven - which were in a small aquarium in the garden preparatory to my entering them in the breeders' class, but in two days there was great mortality amongst the Golden Guppies.

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I counted thirty-seven corpses some were tiny creatures of a few days old I grant, but others were very fair fish that might have got a lucky highly-commended a judge who was not above being biased in favour of a Pal,

The moral of this little diatribe is that staring out as a convinced anticoddler I am now a confirmed pro-coddlerette up to a point. So long as my fgish continue to survive in a liquid atmosphere of between 50 and 80 degrees it suits me; and I gently but firmly refuse to join the ranks of the zero to boiling point gang!

Delicate? - yes. But delicate? - no !

by: P. Blomfield

This word "delicate" seems to be one of the most frequently misused when it comes to Tropical fishes. One hears this sort of thing from admiring friends, like one who was recently studying my Harlequins, "What dainty delicate little things they are". Dainty, yes; but ask Mir. Jack Brooks his opinion of their constitution, and he will probably recall to you that some four weeks age, after transferring a dozen of these beautiful little fishes from the tank in which they had been undergoing their period of quarantine to a more permanent home, he could only count eleven, and, after numerous recounts and an exhaustive search of the floor, the missing one was "written off". Three days later the lost sheep came back to the fold, for while feeding some Golden Orfe in an adjacent tank he spotted the "12th man" disporting herself merrily in water which, had at no time been above the 60° mark !

I make no apology for the sexual mix-up in the preceding sentence, for it is common knowledge that the ladies (God bless "em) can tolerate temperatures which cause even the goose-pimples on we mere men to get goose-pimples; and yes for Mr,Mash, well, may his "coddling" days be long in the land and may his Moors multiply but, delicate, I ask yer !

Pity the sweet young blonde aquarist, who thought that a "Zebra" crossing Was a hybrid
Brachydanio

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THE HYDRA

Mr Willis's little talk on Hydra may have wetted your appetites for more detailed information c:i
this pest so we reproduce below an article by **Mr C. Kemp of Thames Valley A.S.**

Editor,

Although there are only two common species; in this country, the *Hydra fusca*, which is of a brown colour, and the *Hydra viridia*, which is green; they belong to a comparatively large family, however, most, of whose members are marine, and consist of the common Jellyfish, the Sea Anemones and the most amazing of all those which have taken to forming very heavy skeletons such as the corals which have built up the Great Barrier Reef which stretches for more than 1,000 miles off the Australian Coast.

The Hydra is one of the simplest forms of multi-cellular animals, and it consists of two layers of cells - the outside or ectoderm, and the inside or endoderm, which normally forms a slender-long tube at the end of which there are 5 to 8 long tentacles which can be waved about, but the whole animal is very flexible and can, as a protective device, withdraw itself into a tiny ball little larger than a pin's head while its tentacles become tiny stumps. If it is left for a short time, however, it soon expands and extends itself to approximately an inch (including the tentacles which stand out as fine transparent threads). The Hydra attaches itself to the sides of an aquarium or the plants by means of a "foot" which is composed of a few specialised cells which secrete a sticky substance by means of which the animal is able to hold on to plants, rocks or glass. When it wants to move it either frees itself from the weed and allows itself to be carried to some other spot where it settles, or it makes a series of movements by catching on to the weed with its tentacles and detaching its foot and moving its body forward, eventually placing its foot near the spot where the tentacles are holding. It then repeats this movement something like a "looper" caterpillar.

Probably the most fascinating structures in the Hydra are the specialised cells called the Cnidoblasts which are very curious stinging cells used for offence and defence.

/Cont.....

They are arranged all over the outside of the body particularly on the tentacles where they are arranged in groups or batteries. Inside the cell or cyst there is a long tubule thread coiled up in a spiral, while outside there is a fine hair like process which is used, to convey the external stimulus to the cells and it is referred to as a "trigger hair". If some Daphnia or a tiny fish comes in contact with the hair, the cell bursts in such a way that the thread is shot out, turning inside out in the process, and at the same time the fluid which is in the cyst is passed down the hollow of the thread on to the prey and this fluid either kills or paralyses the victim. In the larger members of this family, e.g. the Jellyfish, this weapon is effective even against humans.

The inside of the Hydra is made up of a large number of cells which can absorb food which the Hydra obtains by the simple process of pushing the paralysed or dead Animal into its inside. Secretory juices are then poured on to the food and digestion takes place in two stages, first, by breaking down the large mass into a number of smaller pieces, and then ingesting them into the endodermal cells. When digestion is complete the waste matter is pushed out again via the mouth and the soluble food is passed through the body cells by diffusion. In such a simple animal there are no special respiratory or excretory organs. Oxygen diffuses in and Carbon Dioxide diffused out over the whole body surface and the nitrogenous waste products are also removed, into the surrounding water.

By means of a simple hand lens, it is possible to see the two types of reproduction. The simplest where a bud is formed on the side of the trunk where growth takes place fairly rapidly. At first the parent supplies the food for the young but eventually there is a complete Hydra which may live for some time feeding either through the parent or by means of its own mouth and tentacles. Eventually, however, it separates off and lives an independent existence. In very good food conditions, however, two or more buds may be found on the same Hydra and sometimes buds may arise on the Daughters before they have themselves become separated from the parent.

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Occasionally when the food conditions or living conditions are very bad, however, the Hydra develops special sex organs and may go through a very elaborate process of producing a large number of eggs which can lie in the dried up bed of a pond until suitable conditions again arise.

Although it is quite obvious that Hydra can be a menace in a breeding tank, it is an interesting animal to watch through a hand lens on the side of the glass, and with a little patience it is easy to see the Daphnia being stunned, ingested and ejected.

IT MAKES YOU WONDER!

by R. DuBoisson.

Have you ever noticed how snatches of conversation overheard from people one passes in the street can quite often appear to have quite startling and even sinister meanings; "..... Yes, she actually had seven all at once", or "..... the body was ripped right open down one side", — probably nothing more unusual than a litter of pups or a car accident, but it makes you wonder.

You can imagine the raised eyebrows when Joe and Bill, both keen aquarists and travelling home together on the 5.10, get down to their pet subject. "I hear you took home a couple of new "Flames" the other evening", "That's right, real smashers too; but the wife said she thought I'd got quite enough already. Still I'm keen to get cracking with 'em, 'cause I think they'll breed much better than the two old "Widows" the wife brought home last week, ~ luaven't been able to do a thing with those! By the way, how are those "Tigers" of yours getting on?" "Oh fine, they're fully grown now of course, and frankly I'm not sure what I ought to feed 'em on. I put a couple of young "Niggers" in with 'em at the Week-end, and they fairly tore 'em to bits, now I'm wondering whether I ought to put some baby "Dwarfs" in with 'em or not". "Is your missus still going strong with these "Niggers"?" "Not arf, but she says

/Cont. ...

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she's got more youngsters than she knows what to do with; still it helps to pay the electricity bill". "Y'know, there's quite a few young "Widows" down our way, I'm thinking of getting hold of a few". "Yes, but what if they're not a success?" "Oh, then I suppose they'll end up with the "Angels", and I don't mind telling you that my Mollie will go the same way if she persists in eating her babies."

It's not known whether any of the other occupants of the compartment eventually dialled 999, put them down as harmless absconders from Celney Hatch, or with traditional British phlegm sniffed disdainfully and carried on with their crossword puzzles. But it makes you wonder doesn't it?

=====

Was it the Baker who is an aquarist or the aquarist who is a baker who said, "You can put a fish in the water but you can't make it spawn"?

M. C.M. '

IT IS RUMOURED THAT.

Tubifex cannot see or hear. We can of course vouch for the fact that they can smell!

There are 10,000 bones in a herring, ~ I knew, I had it for tea !

The beginner who assured us that he had crossed a Giant Danio with a Giant Sagittaria was merely pulling our leg !

Research is being carried out on "how to diagnose white spots on Pearl Danios and Albino Swords".

M..C.M.

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**YOUR EDITOR AND "EDITRESS" WISH TO EXTEND TO ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS
THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL ALL ENJOY A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS, AND
IN THE NEW YEAR THE BEST OF GOOD HEALTH AND PROSPERITY.**

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